

HO KIDERLEN-
WACHTER,THEMANOFAGADIR .

he remarked, *' and I am also rather flabby. With us two a strong policy is impossible, only with Kiderlen." "For heaven's sake/" wrote the Under-Secretary, " do not think of resignation. Everybody who knows the circumstances would regard it as an immeasurable misfortune." His champions were to be found not only in the Wilhelmstrasse but on the steps of the throne. Valentini, the chief of the Civil Cabinet, Miiller, the chief of the Naval Cabinet, and August Eulenburg, the Court Chamberlain, agreed that he was the man the country needed. The Crown Prince joined in the appeal, and when the Chancellor added his weight the Kaiser had to yield. Even now he warned Bethmann with the inelegant words : *Sie set^en sich dm Laus in den Pefy*. When once his decision was made he treated the new Foreign Minister with courtesy and confidence, but the *camaraderie* of earlier years was not resumed, and the brief reference in his Memoirs is cool enough. Kiderlen never flattered anybody and was well aware of his master's failings, but he admired him more than Billow, whom in his intimate circle he always called the eel. Like everybody else he respected Bethmann for his high character, but in the realm of diplomacy he regarded him as a mere amateur. Schoen was packed off to Paris, and Kiderlen's appointment was welcomed on every hand. " Political leadership at last!" exclaimed old Schlieffen, the famous ex-chief of the General Staff. In the Foreign Office itself, reported the Under-Secretary, there was general delight. "Everybody longs for a strong and a firm hand." The new Minister was resolved to be master in his own house. " With us the post of Foreign Minister is most unenviable/* he had once remarked to a friend. " All the successes are put down to the Chancellor, all the failures to the Secreta.ry of State." tlie

relationship, which
was never easy, varied with the personalities
concerned.
Kiderlen's authority rested not only on his own
prestige but on
his chiefs ignorance of foreign affairs. Yet the
Chancellor
bore the ultimate responsibility, and as
Bethmann's self-
confidence 'grew with time his influence in the
shaping of
policy increased. The Anglo-German naval and
neutrality
negotiations, for instance, he kept in his own
hands.

A few days before leaving Bucharest Kiderlen
explained his
programme to Take Jonescu. While he was at
the helm there
would be no war with England. Friendship with
France was
not to be had. She desired peace and would
never attack
Germany, but if the latter were attacked from
some other